

# WenEA Communiqué

## Newsletter of the Wenatchee Education Association

### In This Issue

School Board to Discuss Restoring Local Levy

Summer Professional Development: WEA Summer Institutes Tuition Waivers

Year End Celebration

Know Your Contract: Supplemental Pay

Important Insurance Change Dates this Fall

How to Correct Misperceptions about Summer Break

President's Message

Wild Waves Discount for Educators

### Upcoming Events

WSD School Board  
June 11, 6:00 p.m.  
District Office

### School Board to Discuss Restoring Levy June 11th

At the next regularly scheduled school board meeting at 6:00 pm on June 11<sup>th</sup>, the WSD school board will be discussing restoring our local levy funding to the new cap of \$2.50 / AV. It's important for members to attend to show their support for returning our levy to the maximum amount allowed to reverse many of the deep cuts to staff and program that are currently planned for next year. Please encourage supportive community members to attend as well.

### Sign up for WEA Summer Institute

**WenEA members receive free clock hours and mileage!**

***Pasco Registration Deadline: June 12<sup>th</sup>***

Sign up today! Meet and engage with fellow educators from around the state, learn the latest in new teaching strategies, the law, and technology. The WEA Summer Learning Institutes offer more than 50 class tracks to meet your needs, as well as satisfying certification requirements for TPEP and STEM hours.

To register go to [WashingtonEA.org](http://WashingtonEA.org), "professional development"

For mileage reimbursement information contact Kris @ [WenatcheeEA@gmail.com](mailto:WenatcheeEA@gmail.com).

### Tuition Waivers for Educators

Certificated educators are eligible for tuition waivers for classes at state community colleges and universities. Some restrictions may apply. Visit these links to download applications for:

Wenatchee Valley College: <https://www.wvc.edu/>.

Central Washington University: <https://www.cwu.edu/registrar/cwu-and-state-employee-tuition-exemption-request>

## Year-End Celebration Honors District and Union Leaders

In addition to honoring our nine retiring members and 22 recipients of the WenEA scholarship, this year's annual celebration included special recognition and standing ovations for outgoing Superintendent Brian Flonas, and six former presidents who received the 2019 Friend of Wenatchee EA award. Flonas was presented with a deluxe edition of the "Velveteen Rabbit" to share with his grandchildren. The story is about a child's toy that eventually becomes threadbare and discarded, but becomes real forever due to the love of a child. The Friend of Wenatchee EA award was created in 2014 to honor retiring union leaders for their leadership and service to members. Each of this year's honorees helped make major gains for our members in substantial and lasting ways - such as securing funding for a full time release president, bargaining our very first master contract, and initiating our collaborative structures with WSD. Receiving this honor were past presidents Mary Armstrong, Rich Buckingham, Marilyn Everhart, Suellen Harris, Doug McComas, and Ed Tuggle. Guests were also treated to a slide show with photos of our retirees, a video compilation of student tributes to their parents, and a Kahoot "game show" with trivia questions about our retirees. A delicious dinner was provided by the WVTSC culinary arts program and a photo booth was provided by the WHS Photography/Art club - both as fundraising activities for their Skills USA competitions. Wenatchee Valley Brewing Company was also on hand to provide craft beers and other beverages.



Special thanks to event co-chair Rosie González; Scholarship Chair Jake St. John; Adam MacDonald for the scholarship video; Patty Cone for the game show contest; and Executive Board members Brenda Hargraves, Monika Christensen, Eva Martínez, and Emily Wilson for making the event a success.



Top right: Superintendent Brian Flonas accepting his farewell gift. Past presidents receiving the Friend of WenEA Award L to R: Doug McComas, Mary Armstrong, Suellen Harris, Ed Tuggle, Marilyn Everhart, Richard Buckingham. (Adam MacDonald photos.)



## Know Your Contract: Supplemental Pay

### Paid in July

\$ Senior Employee Advisory (longevity) Stipends (See Big Red section 8.N.)

\$ VEBA account contributions for unused personal leave that cannot carry over to 2019-20. If you do not already have a VEBA account, look for a membership packet to arrive this summer from VEBA Trust that will provide you with investment options and other helpful information.

### Paid in August

\$ National Board stipends

### Important Dates for Health Insurance Changes This Fall

• September 10-19, 2019: Window to make changes to current WEA Select insurance for November & December only

• December 31, 2019: Final day of coverage under our current WEA Select plan

• October 1 – November 15, 2019: Open enrollment to choose new SEBB\* insurance plan  
(\*School Employees Benefits Board)

• January 1, 2020: First day of coverage under SEBB plan

### **“It must be nice to have a paid summer vacation.”**

You will undoubtedly hear some version of this statement at some point in your summer. It's always good to explain that educators don't have paid vacation and work as many hours in a nine-month school year as other professionals work in 12 months. School districts pro-rate our nine month salary over 12 months so paychecks are evenly distributed throughout the year. We are not paid for time off in the summer, nor holidays - not even federal holidays. The large salary bump we received this year as a result of the McCleary Decision was not a raise, it was an adjustment to return educator salaries to where they should be. The Legislature's own research showed that our salaries were approximately \$20,000 below those for comparable positions, and that after years of losses our salaries had fallen from the top ten in the nation to near the bottom. The Legislature earmarked additional funding to remedy this and we bargained it into our contract. Districts have had to restrict their budgets due to the levy swap, not our salary increases.

## Message from President Kris Cameron

As we come to the close of another year of sacrifice, hard-work, and lots of emotion - both happy and sad, to help students successfully move along their life's path, it's good to take a moment to give yourselves credit for your efforts. If we're lucky, we get to see the blooms that result from the seeds we've planted, but often we don't. Sometimes others further along the path get much of the credit for the fruits of our labors. But no matter how anonymous our contributions may be, when they leave us our students carry a piece of our hearts and memories with them forever. Educators often don't get the praise and recognition they so richly deserve for taking on such difficult work. In thanks for all you do, I offer the words of one of our former students, whom I believe expresses these sentiments beautifully.

*"If, in your work and life, you don't get the accolades you deserve because you're not doing the shiny stuff, I see you. If you keep the engine serviced but don't sell the car or get the commission, I see you. There's a person in front of the camera, and a hundred people behind them making everything work every day without recognition. Without you, there'd be no camera to stand in front of. You deserve the accolades, the Instagram posts, the tags and photos--whatever. Thank you for doing what you do, whatever and wherever it is."*  
- Jillian Danley, WHS Alumna

Best wishes for a peaceful, relaxing, and joyful summer. You've earned it!



Wild Waves offers educators and their families a full day of fun with over 70 acres of rides, slides, and attractions at Washington's largest theme & water park! Kick off your summer right with a day of fun in the sun! Get your discount here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/EducAppWW>



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School photos courtesy of Parson's Photography.